

THE BOTANICAL SYMPOSIUM AT OHIO PYLE,
PENNSYLVANIA

The second Botanical Symposium, held at Ohio Pyle, Pennsylvania, during the week of July 2 to 9, as announced in previous numbers of this Journal, was voted a great success by the thirty persons in attendance. That we should come so far was well appreciated by our Pittsburgh friends, who, although concentrating their efforts on "Pittsburgh Day," did much toward the general success of the meeting. Especial credit in this connection is due to the young ladies, some of whom seemed none the less attractive on account of their botanical innocence.

Ohio Pyle is a small village at an altitude of about 1,200 feet, situated among the western ranges of the Alleghany Mountains on the Youghiogheny River at a point where that tortuous stream almost forms a loop on itself by turning abruptly nearly backwards and after a course of several miles comes to within a few rods of the point of departure, but some 80 feet nearer sea-level; in this distance it tumbles over a very pretty "falls" and traverses a series of mad rapids, the rocky banks of which are frequently inundated for short periods. The sandy pockets of these banks are exceedingly rich in plants, many of them of great interest and often of southern affinities.

The more precipitous places are covered by a mass of *Rhododendron maximum*, at this time gorgeous in its profusion of bloom. The so-called peninsula formed by the bend of the river is a low flat forest of oak and chestnut, with a goodly number of cucumber and tulip trees interspersed and an occasional white pine and hemlock on the margin. Here many interesting plants are found but at this time the forest was especially attractive to the mycologists on account of the richness of its fungus flora, which had been brought out by the copious rains of the previous weeks. The steep and rocky mountain-sides and the brooklets on the opposite sides of the river furnished much additional variety.

The most interesting trees were the Alleghany birch, cucumber tree and Pennsylvania maple; of shrubs, there were *Pyrularia*

pubera, *Spiraea virginiana*, *Ilex monticola* and *Dirca palustris*. Herbaceous plants of interest were *Arisaema Stewardsonii*, *Cimicifuga americana*, *Aconitum uncinatum*, *Trautvetteria carolinensis*, *Ranunculus alleghaniensis*, *Adlumia fungosa*, *Heuchera Curtisii*, *Saxifraga micranthidifolia*, *Dalibarda repens*, *Scutellaria saxatilis*, *Houstonia serpyllifolia*, *H. purpurea* and *Marshallia grandiflora*; among the pteridophytes, *Camptosorus rhizophyllus*, *Asplenium pinnatifidum*, *A. montanum* and *Lycopodium tristachyum*. The violaists found much of interest, but the crataegists saw very little in their line except a type bush of one of Mr. Ashe's species. The bryologists were overwhelmed with the abundance and variety of their favorites. The mycologists were simply deluged with species and individuals, but lichens were very scarce and algae almost entirely absent. A full list of the plants noted is to be published by Recorder Crawford at a later date.

The headquarters, the Rainier Hotel, an ancient summer resort with an air of abandonment quite suitable to the occasion, was all that could be wished for, especially as we were in advance of the season and had the place practically all to ourselves. The large pavilion in the grove was provided with a musical instrument and an abundance of tables and chairs—this was taken advantage of by the mycologists, who installed a "mushroom exhibit" in which about seventy-five species were shown under proper labels. Here, too, in the open, in fact right in the forest, our evening meetings were held; these should be attended to be appreciated,—their instructiveness, informality and mirth are beyond my poor descriptive power. Refreshments, from a mysterious source, such as candy, lemonade and ice-water were frequently passed around, while the absence of the mosquito was remarked by our friends from New Jersey. Our disappointment, however, was the failure of the mycological contingent to "make good" their "mushroom feast."

The peculiar success of these meetings is to be attributed, beyond a doubt, to their total lack of formality—the only vestige of which was due to a conspiracy of the "inner man" and the hotel management, which required that each one should report at the dining hall, in person and at stated intervals, but we know of

no instance in which that was particularly objected to. On the whole, this meeting seemed to demonstrate that a considerable party could go on a week's herborizing, in quest of recreation, with as much success as if hunting, fishing or lounging at the seashore. It showed that a widening of the scope of territory covered was thoroughly practicable. It indicated that the symposium as the occasion of a mid-summer gathering or reunion of botanists is now assured and it proved that an absolutely informal gathering is not only most desirable but eminently successful.

It was decided to hold the next meeting somewhere in the highlands of New York, so as to make it practicable for the New England botanists to avail themselves of an invitation to join us, and it is predicted that next year's symposium will prove even a greater success; at all events we all promised ourselves to be on hand in 1906.

J. A. SHAFER.

NEWS ITEMS

J. Franklin Collins was appointed assistant professor of botany in Brown University at a meeting of the corporation of that institution held on June 22, 1905.

Dr. George T. Moore has resigned his position as algologist and physiologist in charge of the laboratory of plant physiology, Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Otis W. Barrett has resigned his post as entomologist and botanist of the Porto Rico Agricultural Experiment Station and has been appointed "plant introducer" in the Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Dr. John Hendley Barnhart, editor-in-chief of the publications of the Torrey Botanical Club, who attended the recent International Botanical Congress at Vienna as delegate from the New York Botanical Garden, returned to New York on August 2.